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Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(RFS Division)

118, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi

Dated: 28th March, 2023

Subject: Minutes of 2nd National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) Meeting of Global Environment Facility (GEF) project "Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes" - reg.

The 2nd National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) Meeting of Global Environment Facility (GEF) project "Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes" was held **on 15th March 2023 at 10.30 AM under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (A&FW), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi in hybrid mode.**

2. I am enclosing the minutes of the meeting for further necessary action.

Encl: as stated above



((R.A.S. Patel)

Deputy Commissioner (RFS)

Email: raspatel@nic.in

Tel. 011-23385981

Distribution: -

1. CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
2. Additional Secretary (NRM), DA&FW, New Delhi.
3. FAO Representative, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi-110003
4. Representative, GEF Secretariat.
5. Additional Director of Forest (Wildlife), MOEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi.
6. Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV & FRA), NASC Complex DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur Village, New Delhi.
7. Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, ICAR, Pusa Complex, IARA, New Delhi.
8. Joint Secretary (IC & Nodal GEF Project), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi.
9. Joint Secretary (NRLM), MoRD, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

10. Joint Secretary (Medicinal Plantation -Ayush), Ministry of Ayush, Ayush Bhawan, B-Block. GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi.
11. Joint Secretary (IWMP)/DG(IWMP), D/o Land Resource, MoRD, 201, Annexe Building Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi.
12. Joint Secretary (Climate Change), Department of Science and Technology, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi.
13. Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa Road. New Delhi.
14. Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
15. Advisor (Agri.), NITI Ayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
16. Director, National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Makrampur, GT Road Bye Pass, Karnal, Haryana
17. Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio park, CSIR, Road, Taramani, Chennai
18. Joint Secretary (NRM), DA&FW, Krishi Bhawan New Delhi
19. Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
20. DG(RD)& SS, Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi- 110001
21. Director, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110 003.
22. Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
23. Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
24. Nodal Officers, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
25. Mr. R.B. Sinha, Project Director, GEF, FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003.

Copy to: PPS to Secretary (A&FW)/PPS to AS (A&FW)/PS to JS(RFS)/PS to Director (RFS).

Minutes of the Second Meeting of National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) of the Green-Ag Project held in hybrid mode on 15th March 2023, Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.

The second meeting of the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) for the GEF-6 funded Green-Ag project was held on March 15, 2023, in the office of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India (Gol) in a hybrid mode. The meeting was Chaired by Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary (Agriculture), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Gol cum- Chairman NPSC, to discuss the implementation status of the Green-Ag project in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, and

Uttarakhand. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the onset Shri Franklin L Khobung, Joint Secretary (RFS), DA&FW, GoI welcomed the Chairperson (NPSC), members of the NPSC and Representatives from five implementing States. He provided a brief introduction of the project and further requested Dr Konda Reddy Chavva (Officer-in-Charge, FAO Representation in India) to explain the project briefly.

3. Dr Konda Reddy Chavva, AFAOR, FAO briefed about the key focus area in the project and its implementation through the landscape approach. He further mentioned that the project has been prepared considering detailed landscape management plan in each state in consultation with the communities. This plan shall be implemented and monitored by the local community through the technical backstopping from the project.

4. The Chairperson mentioned that going forward the NPSC meeting should discuss the strategic issues, challenges faced by the project and the lessons learnt which can be further scaled up in convergence with other departments. He further mentioned that the project progress and budget should be discussed at the NPMC level with the states and NPMU.

5. Shri R B Sinha, Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO brought the issues that the project is facing in the implementing states. In Rajasthan, at the State level the project implementation is extremely slow, since there is no full time State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and the department officials have been given additional charge of SPMU. At the district level, the recruitment of project management unit has been done through a third-party agency and half of the team left their positions due to the delay in their payments by the hiring agency. Also, recently the state has removed all the ground level staffs (the Community Resource Person, CRPs) owing to their non-serious attitude towards work. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh the ground-level staff are not recruited yet.

Further, the progress and status of the project implementation was presented to the Chair. Many activities have not been initiated in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, namely, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Community Consultation, and Household Surveys. The Geospatial analysis has been completed in all states except Madhya Pradesh. Based on the geospatial analysis, secondary literature review and community consultations, the Green Landscape Management Plans (GLMPs) have been developed which document the activities that are to be undertaken in the landscape in line with the project's objectives. Further, it also indicates the source of funds for undertaking either from any ongoing government scheme(s) or from the project fund. This way a convergence plan is also the output of the GLMP. Since the project also aims to conserve and mainstream agrobiodiversity support from DA&FW is sought for this aspect. The Chairperson advised the Joint Secretary (RFS) to set-up a three-member committee to develop a draft document and finalize it for the promotion of indigenous seed varieties under different schemes. Dr. Konda mentioned that FAO can develop a TCP on promotion of indigenous seed varieties. Secretary, Agriculture requested for an early action in this regard from FAO and the department as well.

6. The Chairperson advised the Joint Secretary to have a meeting with the Agriculture Directors in the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and further advised to issue a DO letter to the Chief Secretaries in all states, including these two states to address recruitment issues and delay in the project implementation.

The Chairperson further mentioned that the activities like geospatial analysis, community mobilization must be documented in a simple format, so that they can be scaled up without intensive effort. He advised the NPMU to document the learnings of these activities and share them for his review.

7.. The Chair further asked the development details of the Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) and the Project director explained the details of the same. The Chairperson advised the NPMU to develop the SDSS in a way that it should be durable

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in terms in returns, risk and the ecosystem available at the user level/farmer level. The Chair enquired about the scale of the map that is being used for developing the SDSS particularly of the soils. It was brought to his notice that the scale of soils map is 1:250000. The chair was of the opinion that we need to have higher resolution data for an effective planning and suggested that NPMU should approach SLUSI, an organization of the department, for this. He informed that SLUSI has already mapped the soils of the country on a 1:50000 scale and now they are working to make it on 1: 10000 scale. Regarding the geospatial analysis in Madhya Pradesh, the Chairperson suggested that MNCFC may also be involved in this activity as various data sets are available with them, and they can provide support free of cost.

It was also brought to the notice of the committee that the project has developed a dynamic MIS system for monitoring financial and physical progress. Secretary instructed the Joint Secretary to have a closer look at the MIS personally. The Secretary also suggested that the MIS system should be enabled to capture the funding being made from various ongoing government schemes/programmes. The Chairperson requested the NPMU to present the GLMP plan to the members in the meeting.

8. The Chairperson reviewed the challenges the states face and advocated that the state teams to complete the recruitment process without any further delay. Shri Ashok Barnwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development Department, MP appraised the Chair that the state has initiated the process for the recruitment of ground level staff, and they will complete the process immediately and the team will be on board by the end of the March 2023. The Chairperson further advised the Mizoram state team to provide support to GLIU team and carry out examining various knowledge products critically. He also urged the team to complete the recruitment of CRPs having knowledge of regional languages (Chakma and Bru) immediately. He advised the Uttarakhand and Odisha teams to conduct the SSC and TSG regularly.

For moving forward, he asked to involve more agencies and Government of India schemes focusing on climate change scenario for example involving the NICRA villages or including the technologies promoted in NICRA villages and its learnings. The activities should be planned in such a manner that they are actionable and measurable and should be mapped with the existing schemes and technologies. This may be done in a simple tabular format for easy review and monitoring of their impacts. The lessons learnt and scalable technologies should be documented and presented with relevant support information.

9. The NPMU further briefed and presented the Green Landscape Management Plan (GLMP) before the Chair. The Chairperson advised that the plan should simple and community oriented in terms of communication and efficacy so that for next time it can be given as a simple template. Further, he advised that the farmers do have sound traditional knowledge of various activities related to their livelihood and these need to understand when consultation is being done with them and that needs to be tweaked in such a way, if required, that it adds value to the wisdom achieved over a period of time by the communities. Then it will be easier for the communities to replicate it and that way scaling up can be done. He advocated the NPMU to collaborate with the ICAR institutions present in the project landscape and appraise the Chair on how the project will strengthen their technologies for the effective implementation of the project. Likewise, have a close look at the programmes and schemes under Government of India which are relevant to the project and bring up a template which includes what are the current challenges with these schemes vis-à-vis the project's overall objectives. once that is shared with the department, the Chair will call for a meeting at the Ministry level for all those departments and agencies to resolve the issues raised. The team should come up with five key areas where the Chair has to intervene and involved.

Further, the Chairperson highlighted the following actions that should be taken up immediately to accelerate project implementation.

Action points:

- I. Convene a meeting with the State Agricultural Directors of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to complete the recruitment of all pending positions in the project management unit. **(Action: DA&FW)**
- II. Issue a DO letter to the Chief Secretary from Secretary (Agriculture & Farmer Welfare), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt of all states for the delay and slow progress in project implementation **(Action: DA&FW)**
- III. Issue a DO letter to the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan to address recruitment issues and delay in the project implementation. **(Action: DA&FW)**
- IV. To set up a three-member committee to develop a draft report for the promotion of indigenous seed varieties under different schemes. **(Action: DA&FW)**
- V. Develop the MIS system to capture the funding through various ongoing government programmes. **(Action: NPMU)**
- VI. High resolution soil map of the project landscape be used for development of SDSS instead of 1:250000 scale. **(Action: NPMU and DA&FW)**
- VII. The Mizoram state team to provide support to GLIU team and carry out the examining various knowledge products critically. **(Action: Mizoram)**
- VIII. Complete the recruitment of CRPs having fluency and knowledge of regional languages (Chakma and Bru) immediately. **(Action: Mizoram)**
- IX. Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) may be involved in the geospatial analysis **(Action: Madhya Pradesh in consultation with DA&FW, MNCFC & NPMU)**
- X. To conduct the SSC and TSG regularly. **(Action: All States)**
- XI. NPMU to identify the issues that require change in the relevant schemes of Government of India for convergence planning and share them with DA&FW who will then call for a meeting for strengthening the convergence planning **(Action: DA&FW & NPMU)**
- XII. ICAR to share the details of its agencies, especially those working in the field of climate change, and present in project districts/ other districts of the implementing states with NPMU. NPMU to further appraise the Chair on how the project will adopt the technologies of these agencies for the effective implementation of the project. **(Action: ICAR, DA&FW & NPMU)**
- XIII. Prepare a template to map project progress with four-five thematic/focal areas with 5-6 monitorable parameters to show the change and impact of technologies/activities being undertaken in the project. **(Action: NPMU in consultation with DA&FW)**
- XIV. Document learning from traditional practices, learning from geospatial technology that can be scaled up in the present schemes of Government of India **(Action: NPMU)**

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and all the members of NPSC.

Annexure**List of participants**

S No	Name	Department
1	Shri Manoj Ahuja	Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare
2	Shri Abhilaksh Likhi	Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare

3	Shri Franklin L Khobung	Joint Secretary (RFS Division), Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare
4	Dr S.N. Bhaskar	Advisor (NRM/RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare
5	Shri RAS Patel	Deputy Commissioner (RFS) Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare
6	Dr. Rajbeer Singh	ADG, ICAR
7	Dr. B.P. Mishra	Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal
8	Dr. B. Rath	Technical Expert, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)
9	Dr. S.K. Niranjana	Principal Scientist, ICAR
10	Dr. Arun Kumar Prabhakar	National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai
11	Mrs Neena Grewal	Project Director, Green Ag. Project, Uttarakhand
12	Sh. Arjun Lal	Joint Director (ATC), Government of Rajasthan
13	Sh. Hemanta Panda	Director, Soil conservation, Government of Odisha
14	Joint Director	Joint Director, Government of Mizoram
15	Shri Ashok Barnwal,	Additional Chief Secretary, Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development Department, MP
16	Commissioner (Agriculture)	Commissioner (Agriculture), Government of Madhya Pradesh
17	Ms Sunita Bhardwaj	Senior Statistical Officer (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare
18	Shri. N.K. Saroj	STA (RFS), DA&FW
17	Dr Konda Reddy	AFAOR, FAO
18	Shri R B Sinha	Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
19	Ms Devashree Nayak	Gender and Social Inclusion specialist, Green-Ag NPMU, FAO
20	Ms Athira R S	Project Associate, Green-Ag NPMU, FAO
21	Ms. Uma Balaji	Admin & Operations Officer, Green-Ag NPMU, FAO
22	Dr Divya Shah	Assistant Project Officer, Green-Ag NPMU, FAO
23	Shri Hitesh Awasthi	Animal Husbandry Expert, Green-Ag NPMU, FAO